



# News Release

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## **State to fine water system operator, owners for negligence**

**OLYMPIA** — State health officials have fined the operator and owners of the Hillview Water Association in Yakima County for repeatedly failing to monitor the water system for potentially harmful substances.

In addition to the \$12,600 fine, the agency is revoking the certification of water system operator Bruce Forenpohar of Selah for one year. The system serves about 30 homes near Selah.

The penalties follow a series of notices and warnings the state Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water sent to Forenpohar for failing to regularly test the system's water. Forenpohar was given many chances to comply with required testing for coliform bacteria, nitrate, lead, copper, herbicides, pesticides and other chemicals.

The state alleges he also violated state and federal rules requiring him to inform customers about the state's orders and to provide them with important information about the quality of their water.

"This is more than a couple of slip-ups," said Denise Clifford, director of the Office of Drinking Water. "We consider these to be intentional violations and gross negligence of Forenpohar's duty to provide safe and reliable drinking water. This violates the trust we place in water system operators to protect public health."

Forenpohar and the water association each have 28 days to appeal the fine and revocation.

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Visit the Washington Department of Health Web site at <http://www.doh.wa.gov> for a healthy dose of information.